



HR0504

LRB102 20860 MST 29741 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is a  
3           federally-recognized Indian tribe that originally occupied  
4           homelands in southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and  
5           northwestern Indiana; and

6           WHEREAS, Members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
7           were signatories to the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, which  
8           reserved two sections of land near Paw Paw Grove, Illinois for  
9           Potawatomi Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band; and

10           WHEREAS, Shortly thereafter, the Potawatomi people of  
11           northern Illinois were removed from their homelands in  
12           connection with the U.S. Indian Removal Policy of the 1830s;  
13           and

14           WHEREAS, The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation relinquished  
15           nearly all of their initial 28 million-acre homeland in the  
16           Great Lakes area when the Treaty of Chicago was signed only  
17           three years later; and

18           WHEREAS, The 1833 Treaty of Chicago did not cede the  
19           Shab-eh-nay Reservation to the U.S., but instead it reaffirmed  
20           the reservation established for Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band  
21           in the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien; and

1           WHEREAS, Because the land reserved for Chief Shab-eh-nay  
2 and his band in Illinois was expressly reserved by the U.S.  
3 Senate when it ratified the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829,  
4 the land belonged to Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band despite  
5 the removal of most of his tribe to lands in Kansas; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1849, while Chief Shab-eh-nay was away  
7 visiting relatives in Kansas, the U.S. General Land Office  
8 illegally sold the land and passed the title to non-natives;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, Since then, individuals, the State of Illinois,  
11 the DeKalb county government, and corporate entities assumed  
12 ownership of lands within the Shab-eh-nay Reservation and  
13 continue to occupy Shab-eh-nay's lands to the present day; and

14           WHEREAS, The current non-Indian occupants within the  
15 Shab-eh-nay Reservation should not be held liable for  
16 occupying the land; and

17           WHEREAS, The federal government has admitted that it  
18 violated federal law when it sold the Shab-eh-nay Reservation  
19 in 1849; and

20           WHEREAS, Only congress can affirm the Prairie Band

1 Potawatomi Nation's authority within the reservation, resolve  
2 any damages owed to them, and clear the land title of the  
3 state, county, and local residents; and

4 WHEREAS, The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation seeks a  
5 complete resolution of all issues relating to the Shab-eh-nay  
6 Reservation through congressional recognition of its land  
7 ownership and the taking of land by the federal government;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we support the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's efforts to  
12 regain possession of Chief Shab-eh-nay and his band's land  
13 that was illegally sold by the federal government in 1849; and  
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we encourage the federal government to  
16 enact legislation to address the ownership of the Shab-eh-nay  
17 Reservation reserved for Chief Shab-eh-nay and his descendants  
18 under the Treaty of Chicago in 1833.